

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

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**CONYERS AND MEEK TRAVEL TO HAITI WITH HOPES TO STIMULATE DIALOGUE
BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTIES AND IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S.
AND HAITI**

Today, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Congresswoman Carrie Meek (D-FL) issued the following statement today regarding their trip to Haiti:

“It is good to be back with many friends in the “Pearl of the Antilles,” although we wish it could be under better circumstances.

It is no secret that times are very hard for Haitians and that the present political deadlock stands in the way of a return to more positive and productive times for the hard-working, overburdened Haitian people, who have been so patient.

But it is precisely for that reason that my colleague and I have journeyed here once again. We know that Ambassador Curran and his staff, the OAS and the UN all have worked tirelessly to untie the Gordian knots of Haitian politics, with only some progress to date.

We are hopeful, nonetheless, that our visit might further stimulate dialogue between the parties, who are, after all, the ones who ultimately must resolve their differences. We want to get a first hand look at the situation, listen directly to all sides, and then see whether we perceive any avenues that would facilitate that dialogue.

At the same time we want to assure the Haitian people that many of us in the Congress and across America understand how difficult these times have been and will do all we can in the short run to seek humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering.

Finally, we want to learn from the Embassy and the Haitian Government itself how the efforts are progressing to combat corruption, terrorism and drug trafficking that have plagued the economy and the society even further.”